



Charles D. Baker, Governor  
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor  
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO  
Steve Poftak, General Manager



**Fiscal and Management Control Board  
Transportation Board Room**

**10 Park Plaza**

**January 28, 2019**

**11:00 a.m.**

***MEETING MINUTES***

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**Present:** **Chair Joseph Aiello, Director Brian Shortsleeve (arrived at 11:17 am), Director Chrystal Kornegay, Director Brian Lang (arrived at 11:52) and Director Monica Tibbits-Nutt**

**Quorum Present:** Yes

**Others Present:** **Secretary Stephanie Pollack, General Manager Steve Poftak, Jeff Gonnevile, Nathan Peyton, Paul Brandley, Mike Muller, Laurel Paget-Seekins, Danny Levy, Samantha Silverberg, Erik Stoothoff, Owen Kane, Marie Breen and Michelle Kalowski**

At the call of Chair Aiello, a meeting of the Fiscal and Management Control Board (Board) was called to order at 11:09 a.m. at the State Transportation Building, Transportation Board Room, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, Massachusetts.

**Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority**

**Ten Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116**

**[www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com)**

As a first order of business, Secretary Pollack welcomed the newly appointed Board Member Chrystal Kornegay, Executive Director of MassHousing, who was appointed by the Governor to both the FMCB and MassDOT Board. General Counsel Marie Breen introduced the new MBTA Chief Counsel, Michelle Kalowski.

Chairman Aiello opened up the public comment period for items appearing on the agenda.

The first speakers, Staci Rubin from the Conservation Law Foundation and Sarah Levy from Green Roots, along with eight supporters commented on board member assignments.

Next, Paul Regan, Executive Director of the MBTA Advisory Board spoke on behalf of Richard Prone from Duxbury, endorsing nightly later evening train departures from South Station. (Written testimony was submitted.) Mr. Regan also commented on the fare increase.

Next, Louise Baxter from TRU commented on the Better Bus Project outreach, the proposed fare increase and the cashless AFC system.

Next, Maria Belen Power from GreenRoots thanked the GM and Danny Levy for their visit to Chelsea and making available more Charlie cards and the proposed fare increase.

Next, Chris Friend commented on operational impacts of dwell times on heavy rail. (Written testimony was submitted.)

Next, Senator Nick Collins commented on Mattapan trolley service, the fare increase and long term lease agreements, and the Better Bus Project, particularly the #7 bus. (Written testimony was submitted.)

Next, Representative David Biele commented on the fare increase and bus service in South Boston. (Written testimony was submitted.)

Next Allan Karon, TAP rider from Brockton commented on the fare increase.

Marilyn MacNab commented on the fare increase on The RIDE.

Next, Shanti Renfren commented on commuter rail ticket refunds, the height of bike racks on buses and customer service agents.

Lastly, Will Justice from TRU commented on the fare increase and the cashless fare system and Transit Police enforcement.

Public comment period concluded at 11:44 a.m.

Next, was the approval of the meeting minutes of January 14, 2019.

**On motion duly made and seconded, it was;**

**VOTED: to approve the minutes of January 14, 2019.  
Chairman Aiello and Director Kornegay abstained from voting.**

Next, Chair Aiello called upon General Manager Steve Poftak to present Agenda Item D, the Report of the General Manager. Mr. Poftak began by recognizing employees of the General Manager's Safety Awards who went above

and beyond to adopt safety as a fundamental component of the MBTA's culture. The General Manager continued to recognize Laurel Paget-Seekins, Director of Fare Policy and Analytics who collaborated with MIT and was a co-recipient of winning TRB's prestigious William M. Millar award. Mr. Poftak continued with an overview of the Mattapan High Speed Line and concluded with discussing combined outreach for Better Bus, AFC 2.0 and the fare proposal, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "General Manager Remarks, January 28, 2019."

Next, Chair Aiello called upon Deputy General Manager Jeffrey Gonnevile to present Agenda Item E, the Report from the Deputy General Manager. Mr. Gonnevile provided the Board with an update of service issues on the system during the recent snow/ice storm. Mr. Gonnevile concluded with an update on the partnership with the MBTA, Keolis and Masabi to begin a pilot of the mTicket Inspect app on the Newburyport/Rockport and Needham Commuter Rail Lines, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "Deputy GM Remarks, January 28, 2019." Discussion ensued.

Next, the Chair called upon MassDOT's Deputy Chief of Staff Nathan Peyton to present Agenda Item F, the FMCB Calendar. Mr. Peyton reviewed upcoming agenda items with the Board, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "FMCB Public Schedule, January 28, 2019." Discussion ensued. Chair Aiello requested significant dates in the budget process to be included in upcoming meetings.

Next, Chair Aiello began Agenda Item G, a discussion on the appointment of the vacant Vice-Chair FMCB seat recently held by GM Steve Poftak. Mr. Aiello nominated Director Tibbits-Nutt to be the next Vice Chair.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was;

**VOTED: to name Director Monica Tibbits-Nutt as the new Vice Chair of the Fiscal and Management Control Board.**

The Chairman next asked Paul Brandley, Acting Chief Financial Officer to present Agenda Item H, a discussion of the challenges and opportunities of the FY20 Operating Budget. Mr. Brandley provided the Board with the FY20 budget timeline, noting the statutory deadline for the FMCB to approve the budget was April 15. He continued to discuss the dedicated revenue and appropriations and noted the Governor's House 1 Budget included one-time sales tax transfers (subject to legislative approval). Mr. Brandley concluded his presentation discussing structural challenges that included debt service, pension and health care contributions, commuter rail, other contracted services and collective bargaining agreements, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "FY20 Operating Budget Preview, January 28, 2019." Discussion ensued

Laurel Paget-Seekins, Director of Strategic Initiatives continued with the Fare Proposals portion of the budget discussion. General Manager Poftak began the presentation by outlining the reason to raise fares, noting that a 6.3% increase would allow the MBTA to focus on own-source revenue and cost controls and would enable further investments to increase service and maintain capital funding.

Ms. Paget-Seekins continued with the fare proposal overview noting that state law permitted the MBTA to raise fares every two years with a maximum of 7% for each fare product and that the proposal passed Title VI equity analysis. Ms. Paget-Seekins noted that a few fares would not change or would decrease as part of simplification of the fare structure in advance of AFC 2.0.

Ms., Paget-Seekins outlined some key fares that would be affected and stated the proposed increase would take effect on July 1, 2019, as set forth in the attached document labeled “Fare Increase Proposal, January 28, 2019.” Discussion ensued.

At the request of Director Tibbits-Nutt, Samantha Silverberg, Senior Director of Capital Planning provided the Board with a breakdown of spending of pay-as-you-go programs resulting from the 2016 fare increase lockbox that generated \$42 million.

Next, the Chair called on Chief Customer Officer Danny Levy to present Agenda Item I, the External Outreach and Engagement Planning update. Ms. Levy provided the Board with the upcoming community engagement strategy, noting the open-house style community meetings the MBTA planned to host would allow customers the opportunity to provide feedback that would enhance the MBTA’s decision making process and would promote transparency and accountability, as set forth in the attached document labeled, “2019 Outreach Schedule for Better Bus, Fare Proposal and AFC 2.0, January – March 2019.” Discussion ensued.

Next, Vice Chair Tibbits-Nutt called on Erik Stoothoff, Deputy Chief Operating Officer of Infrastructure to present Agenda Item J, the Mattapan Study Update. Mr. Stoothoff provided an overview of the Mattapan Trolley service that ran along 2.6 miles of track in Milton and Dorchester from Ashmont Station to Mattapan Station. Mr. Stoothoff reviewed the three phases of the Mattapan Transformation Program noting Phase 1 was already funded in the current CIP for immediate investments and for future planning. Phase 2 was for State of Good Repair and Modernization and Phase 3 was for the integration of the future vehicle fleet, as set forth in the attached document labeled, “Transformation of the Mattapan High Speed Line – the Path to Accessible, Reliable and Modern Transportation, January, 2019.” Discussion ensued concerning the benefits, concerns and cost of the six options offered. Deputy General Jeff Gonneville contributed to the presentation discussing the evaluation of the vehicle options by estimated capital cost. Secretary Pollack asked that resiliency issues be included when considering the options.

Next, Chair Aiello recognized Representative Caroline Dykema who was in the audience and asked if she would like to comment on any of the agenda items (she did not).

Next, Chair Aiello called upon Executive Director of the Office of Transportation Planning David Mohler, Laurel Paget-Seekins and Assistant Executive Director for Commuter Rail Michael Muller to present Agenda Item K, an update on Commuter Rail Ridership. They provided the Board with an overview of passenger counts including methodology; ridership growth and usage statistics;

factors affecting commuter rail ridership; comparison with National Transit Database (NTD) Data; operational impacts; revenue and fare collection and line-by-line ridership and service changes, with results indicating overall ridership growth, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "Commuter Rail Ridership Counts, January 28, 2019." Discussion ensued.

Lastly, Chair Aiello noted that Agenda Item L, the Red and Orange Line Update was a written submittal and that staff was available if the Board had any questions or concerns, as set forth in the attached document labeled, "Red Line/Orange Line Improvements and Signal Upgrades, January 28, 2019." There was none.

**On motion duly made seconded, it was by roll call:**

**Chair Aiello** Yes

**Director Tibbits-Nutt** Yes

**Director Lang** Yes

**Director Shortsleeve** Yes

**Director Kornegay exited the Open Session prior to the roll call vote**

**VOTED: To enter into Executive Session for a discussion of strategy related to litigation and real estate at 1:52 p.m.**

**Documents relied upon for this meeting:**

-Minutes of January 14, 2019

- General Manager Remarks, January 28, 2019
- Deputy GM Remarks, January 28, 2019
- FMCB Public Schedule, January 28, 2019
- FY20 Operating Budget Preview, January 28, 2019
- Fare Increase Proposal, January 28, 2019
- 2019 Outreach Schedule for Better Bus, Fare Proposal and AFC 2.0, January – March 2019
- Transformation of the Mattapan High Speed Line – the Path to Accessible, Reliable and Modern Transportation, January 2019
- Commuter Rail Ridership Counts, January 28, 2019
- Red Line/Orange Line Improvements and Signal Upgrades, January 28, 2019